

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (cancelled).

12. (previously presented) A method for fostering coopertition and gracious professionalism among students while inspiring an appreciation of science and technology, the method comprising:

establishing a contest played on a playing field with at least four robots, such robots designed and built with participation of such students, such contest requiring accomplishment repetitively of a designated physical task on the playing field, wherein:

(i) each robot is controlled by a distinct team of students and designed to repetitively accomplish the physical task, performance of which on the playing field by a given robot triggering attribution to a score based on frequency of achievement of the physical task by the given robot; and

(ii) the contest is conducted in matches between two competing alliances of the teams, each match including a plurality of teams from each alliance;

assigning a raw score after each match to each alliance based on frequency of achievement of the task by robots of each team in each such alliance;

determining a final score for a winning alliance in each match, such winning alliance having a raw score exceeding the raw score of the other alliance by enhancing the raw score of the winning alliance by a function of the raw score of the other alliance, so that the winning alliance is thus motivated to cause the other alliance to achieve a high raw score, and the teams of each alliance must work cooperatively;

setting a final score for the other alliance in each match equal to the raw score achieved by that alliance; and

ranking the teams based on the final scores achieved in matches in which they participate; so that the students, by engaging in the contest, are provided with an experience involving

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science and technology under processes as recited herein that motivate cooperation in the midst of competition for a highest final score on the playing field.

13-15. (cancelled)